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WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

REPORT, 1956.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Withnell for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The number of live births registered in your District during 1956 was 42, one more than the previous year, giving an adjusted birth rate of 16.7 compared with 16.2 last year.

The number of deaths showed a marked decrease, being 32 against 56 last year. The adjusted death rate was 12.0, last year's figure being 19.4. The main cause of death was heart disease in its various forms, 17 of the 32 deaths being attributable to this condition.

Once again it is most pleasing to be able to report there were no deaths connected with child birth, or of infants under one year during 1956.

There were no primary respiratory tuberculosis notifications during the year, This is a desease which is being gradually brought under control by "combined operations" against it. Other infectious diseases, likewise, were at a low level, apart from whooping cough of which there were 12 cases in the year

The drinking water of the district continues to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. Due to the restriction on loans no progress can be made at present with the scheme for the more efficient treatment of water.

Other matters regarding the Sanitary Circumstances are dealt with in the Report and require no comment from me.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members for the kind consideration given to Dr. Doherty and myself at all times.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Barratt, Clerk to the Council and Mr. Hall, Surveyor and Health Inspector for their willing co-operation during the year.

J. WALKER.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SECTION A.

The area of the district is 4, 190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1956 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,820.

That rateable value was 22,460 and a penny rate produced £88.

The cheif industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, Saw Mills and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
1. LIVE BIRTHS.			
Legitamate	24	17	41
Illegitimate	NIL	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 14.9 Adjusted 16.7.			
2. STILL BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.			

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
1. ALL CAUSES	15	17	32
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude 11.3. Adjusted 12.0			
2. RESPIRATORY T.B.	NIL	1	1
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 0.35.			
3. MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	3	2	5
Rate per 1,000 estimated population 1.77.			
4. MATERNAL MORTALITY		NIL	NIL
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion			
Rate per 1,000 TOTAL Births NIL.			
5. INFANTILE MORTALITY			
A. Under one year			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.			
B. Under Four Weeks.			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Rate per 1,000 LIVE Births NIL.			

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

BIRTHS 1.12

DEATHS 1.06

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CRUDE RATES.

YEAR	Live Births		Deaths all causes		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Total under 1 year		Mortality Neo-Natal under 4 weeks	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registeres	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 population
1956	42	14.9	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1955	41	14.5	56	19.5	2	47	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1954	37	13.0	32	11.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1953	32	11.3	34	12.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31	NIL	NIL
1952	44	15.6	35	12.4	1	22	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1951	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1950	51	17.8	41	14.3	1	19	NIL	NIL	3	59	2	39

ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.12) 16.7 per 1,000

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 1.06) 12.0 per 1,000

ANALYSIS OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

CAUSE	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	0	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	1	1
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	2	4
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	1	4	5
20. Other Heart Disease	3	6	9
21. Other Circulatory Disease	3	0	3
23. Pneumonia	1	0	1
24. Bronchitis	0	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostage	1	0	1
35. Suicide	1	1	2
All Causes	36	20	56

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Walker, M.B.,C.H.B.,L.D.S.,D.P.H.,D.P.D.,

Other Public Appointments.

M.O.H.	Chorley Borough
M.O.H.	Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston R.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer of Healrh Divisional No.4.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.- Reginald Barker Hall,
a Part Time Officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1956.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Laboratory at Preston Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious diseaseand for pathological specimens for ordinary disease

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice cream etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Provided by the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service (Chorley Depot) - Telephone 2744.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is one District Nurse practising in the area. She is Nurse M. Anderton, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall. nr. Chorley.

TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20 St.Thomas's Road, Chorley each Monday at 10.30 a.m.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye etc.) are held at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status.
Attendance by appointment via School Medical Staff.

CHEST CLINIC.

The Chest Clinic is at 34, St Thomas's Road, Chorley. The Chest Physician attends each Tuesday at 10 a m This Clinic is a consultant Clinic for all Chest Conditions

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

Held at Chorley and District Hospital, Wigan Infirmary and Bolton Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

For non-infectious cases - Chorley and District Hospital, Preston Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary and Sharoe Green.

For infectious cases - Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

Smallpox - Smallpox Hospital, Ainsworth Nr. Bury.

Tuberculosis - Sanitorium (50 Beds at Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock)

All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

COUNTY HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

These Services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domicilary Facilities.

There is one District Nurse, Midwife, Miss M. Anderton, 12, Queen's Way, Brinscall. Nr.Chorley. Telephone Brinscall 227 employed by the Lancashire County Council practising in this area.

Ante-Natal Clinics & Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Fridays (at 10 a.m.) at 2-4, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. They are attended by a consultant obstetrician.
No appointment is necessary for the first visit.

Maternity Beds.

The available accommodation at Chorley is as follows:-

Chorley and District Hospital
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

Child Welfare Centres

A Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesdays 2-4 p.m) at the Withnell Conservative Club, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer (Dr.D J Doherty) of the Lancashire County Council as well as the County Health Visitor.
Ministry of Health Welfare Foods and other propriety baby foods may be obtained at this clinic.

Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Nurse Lamb who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She may be consulted through the Divisional Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265).

Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of Sickness , Maternity or Old Age is available in the area. Applications for Home Helps should be made to the Divisional Health Office, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston (Telephone Preston 77265).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:-

Types of Tuberculosis	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Respiratory	15	16	16	16	16	18
Non Respiratory	NIL	NIL	2	5	4	7

There were no primary notifications (Respiratory) in 1956.

New CASES AND MORTALITY 1956.

Age	New Cases Respiratory M	New Cases Respiratory F	New Cases Non Respiratory M	New Cases Non Respiratory F	Deaths Respiratory M	Deaths Respiratory F	Deaths Non Respiratory M	Deaths Non Respiratory F
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock.

Smallpox Cases - there were none - would be admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Disease	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths	Removal to Hospital
	Total all ages	Age period - Years												
		0 - 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25 +	Age Unknown			
Smallpox	NIL													
Scarlet Fever	3				2		1							
Diptheria	NIL													
Measles	2						1	1						
Whooping Cough	12		1	1	1	2	7							
Acute pneumonia	3	1					1			1				
Erysipolas	NIL													
Puerperal pyrexia	1									1				
Poliomyelitis	1									1				
Moningncocial Infection	NIL													
Food Poisoning	1									1				
Totals	23	1	1	1	3	2	10	1	-	4			N I L	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Production.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food The Local Authority is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of Milk Retailed in the district. Four Samples were taken and were satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods.

All meat during the year came from the Central Depot in Blackburn until restrictions ceased. Meat is now brought direct as there is no private slaughterhouse in the district.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegitables were inspected and in cases where necessary were volunarily surrendered for condemnation.
No Statutory action was necessary.

Ice Cream

No samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. 25 Visits were paid to these premises.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

927 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2,770 persons are supplied with this water.

14 bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year of these all were satisfactory. Proposed scheme for the installation of Micro-strainer and chlorinator submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government which has been approved in principal, but is postponed due to the restriction on capital expenditure.

A further 30 dwelling houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There were no reports of unsatisfactory private water supplies during 1956.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are two Sewage Disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer. A storm water tank has been made at Brinscall Works during this year.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1956.

Privey Middens	None
Pail Closets	93
Dry Ashpits	1
Moveable Ashbins	907
Waste Water Closets	36
Fresh Water Closets	847
Houses on Water carriage system	884

During the year 3 Closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets

Public Cleansing.

The Collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 74 and 29 found to be defeftive, 27 of these were abated and 29 informal notices were served. No Statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There is one Part Time rodent operative employed by this authority.

Action relating to rodent control during year ended 31st December, 1956.

	Types of Property.		
	Non-agricultural		Agricultural
	Dwelling houses	All other	
(a) Number of properties in district	956	55	43
(b) Number of properties inspected	21	11	39
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl.re-inspections)	18	5	17
(d) Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats - Major	-	-	-
Minor	6	9	9
Mice - Major	-	-	-
Minor	15	2	18
(e)Number of infested properties treated	21	11	14
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl.retr.)	23	18	16
(g) Number of Block control schemes carried out	1	NIL	NIL

SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the district at the end of 1956 were 5.

Sanitary condition of schools at end of year:-

(a) Number of schools with unsatisfactory yeard surfaces 2

(b) Sanitary accommodation No of Schools with : (i) Fresh Water closets only 4.
(ii) Waste Water closets only NIL (iii) Trough closets only : 1
(iv) Pail Closets only NIL (v) Privy closets only NIL
(vi) other types NIL

(c) Drainage-No. of schools with drainage to:-
(i) Public Sewer 5 (ii) Private treatment works NIL

(d) Refuse disposal - No. of schools with:-
(i) Dustbins 5 (ii) Dry Ashpits NIL

(e) Water supply - No. of schools with:-
(i) Public Mains 5 (ii) Private supply NIL
No. of private supplies (e (ii) considered unsatisfactory NIL

(f) No. of schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for (i) washing NIL
(ii) drinking NIL

Housing and Housing Conditions.

Mainly due to high cost of repairs in relation to the market value of the property (mostly old), difficulty is being experienced in administering the relevant sections of the Housing and Public Health Act It is hoped that with new legislation this will not be repeated

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four of five habitable rooms The main defects are defective walls, roofs gutters, spouts and windows

Overcrowding is mainly due to lodgers

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

Factories and Workshops

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the twenty four factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority. Thirty inspections were made, no smoke observations were made.

Swimming Baths and Pool.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper Baths are also available. There are no privately owned baths. Daily tests are taken to ensure that the water is efficiently chlorinated Two samples were taken in bacteriological analysis and found to be satisfactory.

Clean Food Campaign

50 inspections of food premises were made during the year Defects were remedied by voluntary action.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 IMPROVEMENT GRANTS ETC.

Action during the year	Private Individuals		Local Authorities.	
	No.of schemes	No.of dwellings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of dwellings affected
a) Submitted by private individuals to L.A.	4	4	-	-
b) Submitted by L.A. to Minister	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
c) Finding approved by Minister	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
d) Work completed	7	7	-	-
e) Additional separate dwellings included in d)	NIL	-	-	-
	NIL	-	-	-

Three applications approved in 1955 were completed in 1956.

Chief Sanitary Requi ements for the District.

1) Additional provision to be made for the purification and treatment of water supply.

2) Extension to existing sewage works.

3) Conversion of all pail closets.